

- ET*
Amended
- (b) providing a second side rail;
 - (c) providing a cross member;
 - (e) securing the cross member to the side rails; and
 - (f) connecting a component of the vehicle directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail without the use of brackets or other mounts.

Rewrite Claim 11 as follows:

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11. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a ladder frame assembly using a hydroforming operation comprising the steps of:

- (a) hydroforming a first side rail so as to have a first integrally formed mounting structure;
- (b) hydroforming a second side rail so as to have a second integrally formed mounting structure;
- (c) securing a cross member to the first and second side rails; and
- (d) connecting a component of a vehicle directly to one of the first and second integrally formed mounting structures without the use of brackets or other mounts.

Add new Claims 16 through 27 as follows:

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~~16. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a control arm and by connecting the control arm directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail without the use of brackets or other mounts.~~

17. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing an engine and by connecting the engine directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail.

18. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a cab and by connecting the cab directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail.

~~19. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a leaf spring and by connecting the leaf spring directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail.~~

20. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a box and by connecting the box directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail.

21. The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a bumper assembly and by connecting the bumper assembly directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail.

22. The method defined in Claim 11 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a pair of control arms and by connecting the control arms directly to the integrally formed mounting structures of the first and second side rails.

23. The method defined in Claim 11 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing an engine and by connecting the engine directly to the integrally formed mounting structures of the first and second side rails.

24. The method defined in Claim 11 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a cab and by connecting the cab directly to the integrally formed mounting structures of the first and second side rails.

25. The method defined in Claim 11 wherein said step (d) is performed by providing a pair of leaf springs and by connecting the leaf springs directly to the integrally formed mounting structures of the first and second side rails.